

Appl. No. 10/070,198
Atty. Docket No. AA420
Amdt. dated May 19, 2003
Reply to Office Action of November 18, 2002

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- A²
1. (Currently amended) A hair care composition comprising:
 - A. an alkyl ethoxylate of the formula:
$$R-O-(C_2H_4O)_nH,$$
wherein R is an alkyl group having from about 1 to about 30 carbon atoms, wherein n is from about 1 to about 10, wherein the weight average molecular weight of the alkyl ethoxylate is less than about 500 g/mol, and wherein the HLB value of the alkyl ethoxylate is from about 6 to about 11; and
 - B. a gel matrix comprising a cationic surfactant, a solid fatty compound, and water;
wherein the alkyl ethoxylate is combined with the gel matrix at a temperature of less than 60°C.
 2. (Currently amended) The hair care composition of Claim 1, wherein the composition reduces bulk hair volume by at least ~~about~~ 10%, according to an Image Analysis Protocol.
 3. (Original) The hair care composition of Claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the cationic surfactant to the solid fatty compound is from about 1:1 to about 1:20.
 4. (Original) The hair care composition of Claim 1, wherein the alkyl ethoxylate is present at a level from about 0.1% to about 20%, by weight of the hair care composition.
 5. (Original) The hair conditioning composition of Claim 1, further comprising an oil having an HLB value of from about 0 to about 3.
 6. (Original) The hair care composition of Claim 1, wherein the alkyl ethoxylate has a cloud point of less than about 50 °C.

Appl. No. 10/070,188
Atty. Docket No. AA420
Amdt. dated May 19, 2003
Reply to Office Action of November 18, 2002

- A3
7. (Currently amended) A hair care composition comprising, by weight of the hair care composition:
- A. from about 0.1% to about 20% of an alkyl ethoxylate of the formula:
$$R-O-(C_2H_4O)_nH,$$
wherein R is an alkyl group having from about 1 to about 30 carbon atoms, wherein n is from about 1 to about 10, wherein the weight average molecular weight of the alkyl ethoxylate is less than about 500 g/mol, and wherein the HLB value of the alkyl ethoxylate is from about 6 to about 11;
 - B. from about 0.5% to about 20% of an oil having an HLB value of less than about 3;
 - C. from about 60% to about 99% of a gel matrix comprising:
 - i. a cationic surfactant;
 - ii. a solid fatty compound; and
 - iii. water,wherein the gel matrix has a viscosity of from about 5,000 cps to about 40,000 cps, and wherein the weight ratio of cationic surfactant to solid fatty compound is from about 1:1 to about 1:20; and
 - D. the balance being other additional components,
- wherein the alkyl ethoxylate is entrapped within the oil, further wherein the alkyl ethoxylate is combined with the gel matrix at a temperature of less than 60°C, and wherein the hair conditioning composition reduces bulk hair volume by at least about 10%, according to an Image Analysis Protocol.
8. (Currently amended) A process for forming a hair care composition comprising the steps of:
- A. providing an alkyl ethoxylate of the formula:
$$R-O-(C_2H_4O)_nH,$$
wherein R is an alkyl group having from about 1 to about 30 carbon atoms, wherein n is from about 1 to about 10, wherein the weight average molecular weight of the alkyl ethoxylate is less than about 500 g/mol, and wherein the HLB value of the alkyl ethoxylate is from about 6 to about 11;
 - B. forming a gel matrix by
 - i. providing a cationic surfactant;
 - ii. providing a solid fatty compound; and

Appl. No. 10/070,196
Atty. Docket No. AA420
Amdt. dated May 19, 2003
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iii. forming the gel matrix by mixing the cationic surfactant and the solid fatty compound at a temperature greater than both their respective melting points,

wherein the weight ratio of cationic surfactant to solid fatty compound is from about 1:1 to about 1:20; and

C. forming a hair care composition by combining the alkyl ethoxylate with the gel matrix wherein the alkyl ethoxylate is combined with the gel matrix at a temperature of less than 60°C.